

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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P R 131545Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8604

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1419

SUBJ: POLISARIO NEWS CONFERENCE ACCUSES U.S. OF INVOLVEMENT IN SAHARA

1. AHMAD MAHJUB, IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF POLISARIO, GAVE NEWS CONFERENCE AT BEIRUT'S CARLETON HOTEL FEB 12. INCOURSE OF REMARKS, HE ACCUSED AMERICAN AND FRENCH EXPERTS OF INVOLVEMENT ON MOROCCAN SIDE. SUMMARY OF COVERAGE APPEARING IN "AN-NAHAR" FEB 13 FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. POLISARIO FRONT ... HAS ANNOUNCED THAT "ABAB EFFORTS TO SETTLE SAHARA CRISIS HAVE FAILED. THEY WERE DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM BEGINNING BECUASE THEY TRIED TO MAKE ARAB AND WORLD OPINION BELIEVE PROBLEM IS ONE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN MAROCCO, ALGERIA, AND MAURETANIA, WHEN IN FACT IT IS CONFLICT BETWEEN PEOPLE OF SAHARA AND MAURETANIAN AND MOROCCAN REACTIONARIES".

3. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY AHMAD MAHJUB, MEMBER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF POLISARIO, DURING NEWS CONFERENCE HELD AT CARLETON HOTEL THURSDAY. MAHJUB SAID: "ANY ARAB OR FOREIGN MEDIATION THAT DOES NOT SEEK  
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TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF SAHARA BY ARRANGING WITHDRAWAL OF

INVADING ARMIES AND GIVING PEOPLE OF SAHARA RIGHT TO  
SEFL-DETERMINATION IS DOOMED TO FAILURE".

4. MAHJUB DENIED PRESENCE OF ALGERIAN ARMY IN SAHARA  
AND SAID ARMED FORCES TAKING PART IN FIGHTING AGAINST  
MOROCCO WERE ARNY OF SAHARA AND POPULAR MILITIA. HE  
REITERATED THAT ALGERIA HAS NO AMBITIONS IN SAHARA AND  
DENIED NEWS REPORTS THAT VOLUNTEERS FROM VIETNAM, CUBA,  
AND USSR WERE FIGHTING ON SIDE OF POLISARIO IN SAHARA.

5. MAHJUB POINTED OUT THAT MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN  
ALGERIA BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFIMIN GIAP AND  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF POLISARIO WAS POLITICAL IN NATURE.  
HE SAID: "WE DO NOT NEED ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN GUERRILLA  
WARFARE. WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN IT SINCE 1884 AND WE  
HAVE MASTERED IT."

6. MAHJUB ACCUSED MOROCCO OF USING NAPALM AGAINST  
CIVILIANS IN SAHARA AND SAID THERE ARE AMERICAN AND  
FRENCH EXPERTS IN MOROCCAN ARMY.

7. HE ADDED THAT "TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERS OF OAU SUPPORT  
INDEPENDENCE OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-  
DETERMINATION". HE SAID SHARAN CAUSE RECEIVES  
BACKING OF REVOLUTIONARY AND PROGRESSIVE FROCES IN  
ARAB HOMELAND AND WORLD IN ADDITION TO U.N. RECOGNITION  
OF SAHARAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION".  
END TEXT.  
LAMBRAKIS

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